

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4099

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FOR IO/EX

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PORGS, EFIN
SUBJ: ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURES FOR UNIDROIT

REF: STATE 169496

1. UNIDROIT HAS ONLY RECENTLY PREPARED DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR ITS BUDGET YEAR 1979 COVERING CALENDAR YEAR 1979. TO PREPARE THE 1980 ESTIMATES EMBASSY USED THE 7/5/78 EXCHANGE RATE OF US ONE DOLLAR EQUALS 1.81525 SWISS FRANCS AND THE 1979 UNIDROIT ESTIMATE OF 15 PERCENT FOR INFLATION. FOR ALL YEARS THE ABSOLUTE INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBERS STATES HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY 15 PERCENT INFLATION IN ITALY AND HAS BEEN OFFSET FOR THE STRENGTH OF THE SWISS FRANC. THE FOLLOWING TABLE ILLUSTRATES THE APPRECIATION OF THE FRANC VS THE DOLLAR:

1978- 2.31 (11/77) BASE FOR UNIDROIT 1978 BUDGET.
1979 - 1.975 (5/78) BASE FOR UNIDROIT 1979 BUDGET.
1980 - 1.81525 (7/78) EMBASSY BASE FOR UNIDROIT 1980 BUDGET.
ACCORDING TO THE 1978 BUDGET, UNIDROIT HAS REFLECTED SAVINGS OF LIRE 28,500,000 (ABOUT US 33,000) IN PREPARING THE 1978 BUDGET. SIMILARLY, SAVINGS IN 1978 WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE FINAL 1979 BUDGET.

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2. ITALY CONTINUES TO BE THE MAJOR SUPPORTER OF UNIDROIT WITH A CONTRIBUTION OF APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT, FOLLOWED BY THE US, FRANCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, AND UNITED KINGDOM AS CATEGORY I CONTRIBUTORS OF APPROXIMATELY 6 PERCENT EACH. THERE ARE EIGHT OTHER CATEGORIES OF CONTRIBUTORS RANGING FROM CATEGORY II, 3 PERCENT, TO CATEGORY IX (SPECIAL) OF LESS THAN 1 PERCENT BY STATUTE, ITALY'S CONTRIBUTION IS FIXED AT LIRE

80,000,000 (ABOUT US 94,000). OTHER MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTE
SWISSFRANCS.

3. OUR ESTIMATES FOR 1980 TO NOT INCLUDE TWO FACTORS WHICH
COULD REDUCE THE US CONTRIBUTION FOR 1980. UNIDROIT IS
DISCUSSING A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN ITALY'S CONTRIBUTION FROM
LIRE 80,000,000 TO LIRE 150,000,000 (ABOUT US 94,000 TO 176,000).
IF THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION WOULD
BE REQUIRED, PROBABLY IN 1979 AND THIS COULD RESULT IN REDUCED
CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE OTHER 42 MEMBER STATES. THERE IS ALSO A
POSSIBILITY THAT ADDITIONAL STATES WILL BE ACCEPTED AS MEMBERS.
THIS WOULD ALSO REDUCE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRESENT MEMBERS.

4. THE BUDGETARY DATA REQUESTED FOLLOWS:

I. US DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR:

- A. 1978 - 35,485
(BASED ON TWO PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND ESTIMATES FOR THE REMAINDER
OF THE YEAR USING 7/78 EXCHANGE RATE)
- B. 1979 - 37,500
- C. 1980 - 39,300

(THE 7/78 RATE WAS USED TO CALCULATE 1979 AND 1980 CONTRIBUTIONS).

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II. BUDGET DATA IN SWISS FRANCS:

1978 1979 1980

- A. TOTAL UNIDROIT BUDGET 1,044,000 1,048,00 1,140,00
- B. AS ABSOLUTE US CONTRIBUTION 65,500 68,000 71,400
- C. RELATIVE US CONTRIBUTION 6 PERCENT 6 PERCENT 6 PERCENT
- D. EXCHANGE RATE 2.31 1.975 1.81525

5. COPY OF 1979 DRAFT BUDGET WILL BE POUCHED. GARDNER

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